

A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY ATTEST By Bonita Bagley on Aug 12, 2008	U.S. DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA
FOR THE UNITED STATES JUDICIAL PANEL ON MULTIDISTRICT LITIGATION	FILED AUG 12 2008 UNITED STATES JUDICIAL PANEL LORETTA G. WHYTE MULTIDISTRICT LITIGATION CLERK

UNITED STATES
JUDICIAL PANEL ON
MULTIDISTRICT LITIGATION
Aug 12, 2008
FILED
CLERK'S OFFICE



IN RE: VIOXX MARKETING, SALES PRACTICES
AND PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION

MDL No. 1657

TRANSFER ORDER

Before the entire Panel^{*}: Plaintiffs in the eight actions listed on Schedule A move pursuant to Rule 7.4, R.P.J.P.M.L., 199 F.R.D. 425, 435-36 (2001), asking the Panel to vacate its order conditionally transferring the actions to the Eastern District of Louisiana for inclusion in MDL No. 1657. Defendant Merck & Co., Inc., opposes the motion.

After considering all argument of counsel, we find that these actions involve common questions of fact with actions in this litigation previously transferred to the Eastern District of Louisiana, and that transfer of these actions to the Eastern District of Louisiana for inclusion in MDL No. 1657 will serve the convenience of the parties and witnesses and promote the just and efficient conduct of this litigation. We further find that transfer of these actions is appropriate for reasons that we set out in our original order directing centralization in this docket. In that order, we held that the Eastern District of Louisiana was a proper Section 1407 forum for actions involving claims relating to Vioxx. *See In re Vioxx Products Liability Litigation*, 360 F.Supp.2d 1352 (J.P.M.L. 2005).

Plaintiffs can present their motions for remand to state court to the transferee judge. *See, e.g., In re Ivy*, 901 F.2d 7 (2d Cir. 1990); *In re Prudential Insurance Company of America Sales Practices Litigation*, 170 F.Supp.2d 1346, 1347-48 (J.P.M.L. 2001).

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1407, these actions are transferred to the Eastern District of Louisiana and, with the consent of that court, assigned to the Honorable Eldon E. Fallon for inclusion in the coordinated or consolidated pretrial proceedings occurring there in this docket.

^{*} Although two of the Panel's five current members hold stock interests that would normally disqualify them under 28 U.S.C. § 455 from participating in the decision of this matter, the Panel invokes the Rule of Necessity to decide the matter now before it on the authority of, and for the reasons explained in, *In re Wireless Telephone Radio Frequency Emissions Products Liability Litigation*, 170 F.Supp.2d 1356, 1357-58 (J.P.M.L. 2001).

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**IN RE: VIOXX MARKETING, SALES PRACTICES
AND PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION**

MDL No. 1657

SCHEDEULE A

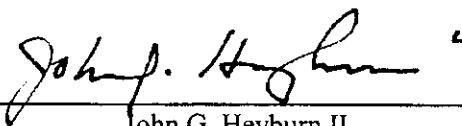
Southern District of New York

**EDLA
SEC.L/3**

Marianne Raftis v. Merck & Co., Inc., C.A. No. 1:08-3067	08-4166
Samuella Cadwell, et al. v. Merck & Co., Inc., C.A. No. 1:08-3068	08-4167
Dean Santacrose v. Merck & Co., Inc., C.A. No. 1:08-3069	08-4168
Margaret Steinhoff, et al. v. Merck & Co., Inc., C.A. No. 1:08-3074	08-4169
Kevin Pitcher v. Merck & Co., Inc., C.A. No. 1:08-3075	08-4170
Carolyn S. Croft v. Merck & Co., Inc., C.A. No. 1:08-3078	08-4171
Helen Bilik, et al. v. Pfizer Inc., et al., C.A. No. 1:08-3280	08-4172
Carol Adelberg, et al. v. Pfizer Inc., et al., C.A. No. 1:08-3291	08-4173

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PANEL ON MULTIDISTRICT LITIGATION



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